







AP Capstone Research 2023 Cheatsheet

 Question & Explore	 Understand & Analyze	 Evaluate Multiple Perspectives
<p>Topic of Inquiry: the <i>detailed and specific</i> topic that a paper covers.</p> <p>Discipline: a broad area of study (ex: economics, history, chemistry, etc)</p> <p>Body of Knowledge: the information that's already been collected about your topic</p> <p>Research Gap: something the Body of Knowledge doesn't cover; your research must close a gap!</p> <p>! Make sure your research topic is feasible for the resources and time you have; be mindful of any ethical and regulatory limitations.</p> <p>Places to Find Sources: JStor, HeinOnline, Google Scholar, Gale Database, Your Local Library, the bibliography of articles you read, etc</p> <p>Use RAVEN to analyze the credibility of sources:</p> <p>R: Reputation A: Ability to Investigate V: Vested Interest E: Expertise N: Neutrality</p>	<p>Text Comprehension Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use active reading strategies such as scanning, skimming, interrogating and rereading a text • Annotate by taking notes, highlighting and reading out loud • Read the abstract (1 para summary @ beginning) to tell if a paper will work for your argument <p>Parts of An Argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line of Reasoning (LOR): the series of claims that work together to form a complete argument • Evidence: anything used to support a claim <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask yourself: Does the evidence make sense + do what the author says it does? • Context: the background of the argument; what is this argument in conversation with? • Limitations: the limits of a piece of research; what can't this argument cover? • Implications: The possibilities that a piece of writing suggests. (ex: potential solutions to problems) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You might be able to use these to inspire your research! • Authorial Bias/Opposing Arguments: Does the author reveal a bias? Do they acknowledge opposing arguments? 	<p>Perspective: 1) The viewpoint that someone has on a particular argument and 2) the particular lens (ex: historical, scientific, etc) they chose to use.</p> <p>Interpreting Multiple Perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the background, assumptions, and influences of the authors when looking for reasons why two perspectives are different • Compare perspectives using the parts of an argument: how do the main idea, LOR, Context, Limitations, Implications, Authorial Biases, and Conclusion differ or converge? • Perspectives interact with each other: they may be oppositional, concurring, complementary and/or competing <p>Evaluating Multiple Perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just like with arguments, make sure that the perspective is valid: Does it make sense that the claims and evidence → author's conclusion? Is there better evidence for one perspective vs another? • Consider the implications and limitations of perspectives: what you can see through one viewpoint and lens won't be what you see w/another • Make sure the perspective/argument is useful for your paper!
 Synthesize Ideas	 Team, Transform, & Transmit	 Academic Paper Tips
<p>Research Paper Checklist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction & Literature Review (introduces research question, reviews previous work in the field & presents gap in research) <input type="checkbox"/> Method, Process, or Approach (Methodology) (provides explanation of and justification for the chosen method or process) <input type="checkbox"/> Results/Findings (Simply presents findings or results) <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Analysis (Interprets the significance of results in context of the research question) <input type="checkbox"/> Conclusion & Future Directions (new understanding, limitations, implications, future research) <input type="checkbox"/> Bibliography (Works Cited) <p>Tips for Research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult the AP Research Rubric to make sure you're meeting the necessary requirements • Research methods come in 2 categories: Quantitative (numbers and math) and Qualitative (interviews, surveys). • Take lots and lots of notes! • Don't be afraid if something unexpected/scary happens! 	<p>Final Presentation and Oral Defense Tips 15–20 minutes total 3–4 Oral Defense questions 25% of AP Exam Score</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice, Practice, Practice! • Make sure your presentation covers everything you need it to; consult the rubric • Make sure slides are visually appealing! • Don't use too many bullet points; Viewers will either read your slides or listen to you but they won't do both • Use many <i>relevant</i> pictures/charts • Be energized when speaking! • Make sure you don't run longer than 15 min to allow time for oral defense. <p>Oral Defense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 5 minutes (included in the 15–20 minutes granted for presentation!) • 3 sets of potential questions provided by College Board • You have the questions beforehand, prepare your answers! • Make sure not to sound like a robot that memorized answers, show you are passionate about what you spent all year researching • Answer thoroughly but don't get side-tracked. Make sure to actually answer the question posed. • It's okay to take a minute to think about a question you get 	<p>4,000–5,000 words 75% of AP Exam Score</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't include your name or high school anywhere on your paper. <p>Writing and Editing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use academic language • Allow a few extra days to review and enhance your language. • Spell/Grammar check; you can use software like Grammarly! • Review & reread your paper multiple times. <p>Word Count</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be conscious of word count, try for about 1,000 words per section. • Paper can be as low as 10% under but this may be a red flag/Paper can be as high as 10% over but may mean you have unnecessary information. • Review papers within your discipline and mimic formatting EX. table of contents, works cited (APA, MLA, etc.), page headers, title page. • <u>Make sure all sources are cited.</u> <p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include subsections within each major section of your paper to break up info. • It can be helpful to use section headers to organize your paper. • Use graphs/charts if it fits with your research-make sure to always explain charts, don't just drop them in!